

"IN THE 57TH CONGRESS, 2ND SESSION, H. R. 3109"; (still-born in its fifteenth reincarnation) "AN ACT FOR PREVENTING THE ADULTERATION, MISBRANDING AND IMITATION OF FOODS, BEVERAGES, CANDIES, DRUGS AND CONDIMENTS, IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE TERRITORIES, AND FOR REGULATING INTERSTATE TRAFFIC THEREIN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

It is with mixed feelings that once more is noted the passage into the great and capacious past of the fifteenth attempted passage of this Act; mixed, because of sorrow in that the law might do much good, and relief in that it could have done much harm, for it carried at least one "joker." Until the joker was discovered there was a loss to understand why certain large manufacturing houses, notorious for their questionable methods, were advocating the passage of the bill. But observe the definition of the term "drug," as given in the proposed act: "Sec. 5. That the term 'drug,' as used in this act, shall include all medicines and preparations recognized in the United States Pharmacopeia for internal or external use." If there is any manufacturing house in the country that is paying dividends on the profits derived from those drugs which it manufactures, and which come within this definition of the term "drug," we should be glad to know of it. And against the bill, in addition to the *advocacy* of certain manufacturers, which in itself had much damning weight, were a goodly number of honest manufacturers who objected to the possibility of a "hold up."

HIC JACET

THE PURE FOOD AND DRUG BILL.

REQUISCAT IN PACE.

To those who are interested in modern therapeutics and materia medica, no question is more pressing nor more perplexing than that of a proper method of dealing with the very large and rapidly increasing number of "proprietary" remedies. Many of them are of undoubted value, yet the various manufacturers are so persistently paralleling each other, especially in those preparations that have recognized value, that he who would use them is soon distracted by the number of similar preparations and buried under the mass of one-sided trade literature sent out by the manufacturers. A committee of the section of Materia Medica and Therapeutics of the A. M. A. was appointed last year to consider the question; more recently the New York Academy of

Medicine passed a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee for a similar purpose. So far as can be learned, however, the question remains as far from being solved as ever, though it is certainly to be hoped that something will be done before long, and relief, at least partial, secured.

The scientific program for the thirty-third meeting of the State Society promises to eclipse any of the programs which have ever come

IMPORTANT PROGRAM.

before that body. The program, in part, will be found on a preceding page. A number of valuable contributions to the science of medicine and surgery will be read, and it is hoped that the discussions will be of as good quality as the papers. The members are reminded that they will be allowed only twenty minutes in which to read their papers, and are advised to cut out all statistical matter and all matter which may be found in text books. Matter thus left out during the reading of the paper may be left in for publication. If this rule is observed the reader of a paper will not be cut off at the most interesting portion, and the discussions will be much more satisfactory.

Three bills were presented at the late session of the Legislature, the purposes of which were to change, in various particulars,

NO MEDICAL LEGISLATION.

the provisions of the existing law regulating the practice of medicine and surgery in this State. One of these bills was not reported back from committee, one was withdrawn, and the other was defeated by vote in the Senate, where it originated. The advocates of these bills were very active in their endeavors to change the existing law, and in at least one instance resorted to misrepresentation in order to enlist the favor of legislators. Several regular and homeopathic societies voted unanimously in favor of retaining the existing medical law on the statute books, and those societies are among the most important in the State; and yet they were charged with being of no consequence and with acting in a biased manner by those who chafe under the wholesome restrictions of the present law. The State Medical Society was attacked and designated "a small coterie of men representing favored colleges," whereas the State Society is composed of representatives from forty counties, with a membership of over a thousand. The undoubted sentiment of the majority of California physicians is against change in the present law, at least until a better one can be suggested, and the lawmakers acted wisely in turning a deaf ear to the specious pleading of a *real* "small coterie of men representing"—themselves.